

Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Steele and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 9

**REMARKS**

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the recent Office Action. Reconsideration is requested.

**Disposition of the Claims.**

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. By this response, claims 3, 5 and 10 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9 and 11-18 remain pending in the application.

**Specification.**

The specification is amended to provide the correct spelling of the term "gib". No new matter is added.

**Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102.**

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication JP407932370A by Takao ("Takao"). Because Takao does not disclose every element in claim 1 as arranged in the claim, the rejection is traversed. In order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. An ejector assembly for use with a mold for molding plastic parts, said ejector assembly comprising:
  - a first stationary member and a second stationary member;
  - an ejector plate moveable between said first and second stationary members;
  - a core blade lifter including a lifter foot assembly that is moveable with said ejector plate, said core blade lifter including a lifter rod pivotally mounted to said lifter foot assembly and moveable laterally and longitudinally in response to movement of said ejector plate; and

Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Steele and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 10

a stationary helper pin generally parallel to said lifter rod, wherein said core blade lifter includes a helper carrier pivotally mounted to said lifter foot assembly and moveable along said helper pin; and

a rod carrier, said rod carrier pivotally mounting said lifter rod to said lifter foot assembly, a through-opening defined in said rod carrier, said through opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of said lifter rod, an adjustment fastener extending in said through opening from a direction opposite said lifter rod, said adjustment fastener adjusting extension of said lifter rod with respect to said lifter foot assembly.

The undersigned wishes to express his gratitude to Examiner Luk for the courtesies extended at the interview held at the Patent Office with the undersigned and Deidra Link on March 9, 2006. At the interview, the undersigned was provided the opportunity to propose claim amendments and discuss differences between the amended claims and the cited references. It is submitted that amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Takao at least because Takao does not disclose, teach or suggest a rod carrier pivotally mounting the lifter foot to the lifter foot assembly, a through-opening defined in the rod carrier having a diameter larger than the diameter of the lifter rod and an adjustment fastener extending in the through-opening from a direction opposite the lifter foot. This allows adjusting of the extension of the lifter rod with respect to the lifter foot assembly. For that reason, the rejection has been overcome. It is observed that in paragraph 5, the Office Action takes the position that U.S. Patent 5,814,357 issued to Boskovic ("Boskovic") discloses an adjustment extension 52. However, it is submitted that Boskovic does not disclose, teach or suggest an adjustment extension. In particular, item 52 in Boskovic does not provide for adjustment of the extension of the lifter rod with respect to the lifter foot assembly. Accordingly, even if Boskovic is combined with Takao, there are claim elements in claim 1 that are not covered by the combination.

Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Steele and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 11

Moreover, it is submitted that there is no motivation in the art for combining these two disparate references. In particular, it is submitted that the combination would render Takao unworkable. Accordingly, it is submitted that there is no motivation for the combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome. Withdrawal is requested.

**Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103.**

Claims 5-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takao in view of Boskovic. The rejection of claims 5-7 was addressed with respect to the independent claim 1 discussed above. With respect to claims 8-18, it is submitted that the claimed combination does not disclose, teach or suggest every element of the rejected claims, nor is there any motivation in the art to combine the references. Accordingly, the rejection is traversed.

In order to expedite prosecution, independent claim 8 is amended as follows:

8. An ejector assembly for use with a mold for molding plastic parts, said ejector assembly comprising:  
a first stationary member and a second stationary member;  
an ejector plate moveable between said first and second stationary members;  
a core blade lifter including a lifter foot assembly that is moveable with said ejector plate, said core blade lifter including a lifter rod, said lifter foot assembly including a rod carrier pivotally mounting said lifter rod to said lifter foot assembly;

Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Steele and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 12

a stationary helper pin generally parallel to said lifter rod, wherein said core blade lifter includes a helper carrier pivotally mounted to said lifter foot assembly and moveable along said helper pin;

    | said lifter foot assembly includes a pair of gib plates with camming surfaces defined along said gib plates, wherein said helper carrier and said rod carrier are commonly slidable along said camming surfaces, wherein said camming surfaces are inclined with respect to said ejector plate.

Even if the references are combined, it is submitted that the overall combination including a camming surface that is inclined with respect to the ejector plate is not met. As set forth in the present application, the placing of the camming surface at an angle with respect to the surface of the ejector plate allows the designer to apply additional acceleration to the lifter rod or to reduce the acceleration of the lifter rod dependent upon the angle and direction of slope of the camming surfaces (paragraph 0025). It is submitted that, even if the combination is made, the combined teaching of the prior art would not disclose that the slide base 23 of Takao could be moving on a surface inclined with respect to the ejector plate and there is no disclosure in the prior art on how to effect such an incline movement. Moreover, Boskovic merely describes the variation of the angle of the blade retainer 26. There is no disclosure of a helper carrier and rod carrier commonly slidable along a camming surface that is inclined with respect to the ejector plate. Indeed, gib 60 of Boskovic is secured in place and is not slidable. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 8 has been overcome. Withdrawal is requested.

In order to expedite prosecution, independent claim 14 has been amended as follows:

Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Steele and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 13

14. A universal lifter foot assembly for use with an ejector assembly of a mold for molding plastic parts, said universal lifter foot assembly comprising:

a pair of ~~gib~~<sup>removable</sup> gib plates with camming surfaces defined along said ~~gib~~<sup>gib</sup> plates;

a carrier assembly slidable with respect to said camming surfaces; and

said carrier assembly including a rod carrier, a helper carrier and wear plates, said rod carrier and said helper carrier pivotally mounted by said wear plates, wherein said wear plates engage said camming surfaces;

wherein said rod carrier is adapted to actuate a lifter rod, said helper carrier is adapted to slide along a stationary helper pin generally parallel to the lifter rod, wherein said gib plates are interchangeable with other said gib plates to change an angle of inclination of said camming surfaces.

It is submitted that the combined teaching of the prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest a pair of removable gib plates with camming surfaces and a carrier assembly slidable with respect to the camming surfaces wherein the carrier assembly includes a rod carrier wherein the rod carrier is adapted to actuate a lifting rod and a helper carrier is adapted to slide along a stationary helper pin generally parallel to the lifter rod and wherein the gib plates are interchangeable with other gib plates to change an angle of inclination of the camming surfaces. As set forth above, the combined references do not disclose an inclination of the camming surfaces, much less the use of interchangeable gib plates to change the angle of inclination. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 14 is patentably distinguishable over the references whether taken alone or in combination. As also set forth above, there is no motivation in the art for combining the references. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claim 14 has been overcome. Withdrawal is requested.

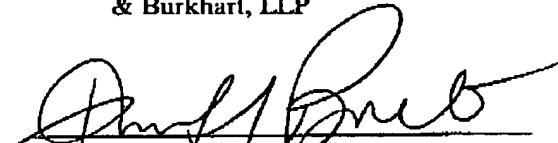
Serial No. : 10/708,770  
Applicants : Harold W. Sickle and Phillip A. Tanis  
Reply to Office Action Dated : January 13, 2006  
Page : 14

The amendments presented herein are fully supported by the application as filed. Accordingly, no new matter is added. It is submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**HAROLD W. STEELE and PHILLIP A. TANIS**

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn  
& Burkhart, LLP



Dated: April 13, 2006.

Frederick S. Burkhart  
Registration No. 29 288  
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207  
Post Office Box 888695  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49588-8695  
(616) 988-4104

FSB:djr  
HSD01 P-100A